

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning at line 2 of page 1 has been amended as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of the U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/350,304, filed on November 2, 2001.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 10 to read as follows:

10. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a flexible connector, comprising:
forming, on a first surface of a flexible substrate, a plurality of contact pads;
forming, on the flexible substrate, a plurality of electrical traces, each of the plurality of electrical traces being in contact with one of the plurality of contact pads; and
forming, between two of the plurality of contact pads, a strain relief structure.

Please add new claims 14-17 to read as follows:

14. (New) A flexible connector, comprising:
a flexible substrate;
a plurality of contact pads formed on a first surface of the substrate and arranged
in a regular configuration in a contact region of the substrate; and
means for increasing flexibility of the substrate in the contact region.

15. (New) The connector of claim 14 wherein the means for increasing flexibility comprises a plurality of apertures intercalated with the plurality of contact pads and penetrating the flexible substrate from the first surface to a second surface, opposite the first.

16. (New) The connector of claim 14 wherein the means for increasing flexibility comprises a plurality of blind apertures intercalated with the plurality of contact pads and penetrating the flexible substrate from the first surface to selected depth.

17. (New) The connector of claim 14 wherein the means for increasing flexibility comprises a thinning of the flexible substrate in the contact region, relative to a thickness of the substrate outside the contact region.

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